

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

# LHS Bottle Baby Evaluation & Care Sheet

	Initial	Time (completed)	Temp	Stim? Y N	Output U F Abn	Type of food	Amount taken (mL)	Weight (g) (after meal)
1					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
2					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
3					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
4					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
5					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
6					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
7					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
8					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
9					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
10					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
11					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
12					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
13					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								
14					U F Abn			
Notes/Medicines given:								

Age	Average Body Temperature	Weight — Baseline for Healthy Kittens	<b>Weight alone is not an accurate indicator of age. Prior to 2-3 weeks of age, other indicators are needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umbilical cord wet: less than 12 hours old</li> <li>• Umbilical cord dry: at least 1 day, less than 5 days</li> <li>• Eyes open: 7 - 14 days</li> <li>• Ears upright: about 3 weeks</li> <li>• Tail up, walking: about 4 weeks</li> </ul>
0 - 2 Weeks	98 - 99 °F	3 - 4 ounces	
2 - 4 Weeks	97 - 100 °F	8 ounces (0.5 lbs)	
4 Weeks +	99 - 102 °F	1 lb	

Age (weeks)	Body Weight	Feeding Stage	Amount per feeding	Amount per day	Schedule of feedings	Overnight Feedings	Feedings per day
0 - 1	2 - 4 oz 50 - 150 g	Bottle Baby	Milk Formula 2 - 6 ml	32 mL	Every 2 - 3 hours	Every 2 - 3 hours	8 - 12
1 - 2	4 - 9 oz 150 - 250g	Bottle Baby	Milk Formula 6 - 10 ml	56 mL	Every 2 - 3 hours	Every 3 - 4 hours	6 - 8
2 - 3	10 oz 250 - 400 g	Bottle Baby or Syringe	Milk Formula 10 - 25 ml	80 mL	Every 3 - 4 hours	Every 3 - 4 hours	6 - 8
3 - 4 *Weaning!	13 oz +	Syringe or Slurry	15 - 50 ml *1 tbsp/15mL	104 mL	Every 3 - 4 hours	Every 5 - 6 hours	4 - 6
4 - 5 *Weaning!	16 oz/1 lb. +	Gruel & Offer Dry Food	25 - 75 ml *2 tbsp/50mL	128 mL	Every 4 - 5 hours	NO overnight Up to 8 hours	4
5 - 8 *Fully Weaned	1 lb +	Wet Food and Dry Food	Offer ample Wet Food and Dry Food	Variable	Every 4 - 6 hours	NO overnight Up to 8 - 12 hours	3 - 4

## Fading Kitten Syndrome (FKS)

Fading Kitten Syndrome (FKS) is a life-threatening emergency in which a kitten, sometimes one that was previously healthy, “crashes” and begins to fade. This can occur with kittens who have a mother as well as those who do not, so watch for mother cats pushing away a kitten and not caring for it. Oftentimes, If not dealt with immediately, this can result in death. There is no clear cause or reason for this condition. It has been linked to birth defects, environmental stress, and infectious disease. Cases of FKS due to environmental factors and illness can sometimes respond to supportive care and medical treatment, but there is not much to be done for congenital defects we cannot detect. But we will try our hardest to give them a fighting chance!

Symptoms include low body temperature; the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch, extreme lethargy; not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet, can't hold head up, limp body, lack of muscle tone, gasping for breath; mouth-breathing, meowing, crying out.

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**TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION** When a kitten is fading, two things are happening: hypothermia, being too cold, and hypoglycemia, not enough blood sugar. You must get the kitten's body temperature up and raise its blood sugar or it will die.

# Fading Kitten Syndrome (FKS) Continued

The kitten's body cannot warm itself with only a towel or blanket; you have to apply an external heat source. Your own body heat won't work because it is lower than what a kitten should be.

Place a warmed snuggle disk or heating pad on medium, covered with a single layer of towel or blanket, into the carrier. Cover the carrier so cool air or drafts don't chill the kitten. Placing additional soft blankets in the carrier for them to burrow in helps lock in the warmth.

From birth, kittens have a strong instinct to seek out warmth. There should be a small space in their area that is away from the heat source, where the kittens can go if they get too hot. Take care that the kittens cannot get too far away and that nothing obstructs their path to the heat.

Check the bedding to make sure it is clean and dry; change if it is wet or soiled, as this can chill the kitten despite the heat source.

If the kittens are soiled, clean them gently but quickly with a warm damp washcloth. Take care to dry them thoroughly before returning them to the crate.

Additionally, a basic hair dryer can be used on low to quickly dry their fur. Keep the hairdryer at least 10in. from the kitten, moving the airflow constantly and using your bare hand to handle the kitten, this way you can judge if the direct air is too hot. Placing additional microfiber blankets in the carrier for them to burrow in helps lock in the warmth.

Once the kitten is set-up for optimum warmth, we need to get their blood sugar up!

The kitten does not need to be at temp to give sugars, once you have started the warming measures the first sugars can be administered.

Age of Kitten	Amount of Syrup
1 - 2 weeks	0.1 mL
3 - 4 weeks	0.25 mL
5 - 6 weeks	0.35 mL
6 - 8 weeks	0.5 mL

Wait approximately 30 minutes to let the kitten's temp and blood sugars rise. If the kitten does not reach temp, prepare a mobile heat source (snuggle disk, rice sock, hot water bottle) the kitten needs emergent care. If the kitten reaches 98 degrees, but their energy does not improve enough to swallow, the kitten needs emergent care. If the kitten is at least 98 degrees, attempt to feed. Hopefully, they will latch and eat a decent meal. After a "crash" decreases the time between their feedings by 1/4-1/2. It's important to continue to monitor them frequently to prevent them from crashing again.

If the kitten's response has improved, is interested in the food, is swallowing, but not able to latch, you can give formula drop-by-drop on the tongue. Do not syringe large amounts into the mouth, as that is a high risk for aspiration. If the kitten does not reach their "per meal goal", apply a second dose of sugar, and try feeding again in 30-60 minutes. Continue this until the kitten latches or you can bring the kitten to LHS for further evaluation

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**Be sure to let the Foster Team know that the kitten was fading, and make clear notes about the episode. It may seem like you are not doing enough to help the kitten, but providing warmth and sugar is the only immediate treatment for a fading kitten and their best chance at stabilizing the crash. Only once the kitten is stable, LHS Medical staff or AECC can start looking for the underlying cause of their illness. We will do everything in our power to treat a kitten, but there are cases where our efforts won't change the outcome. We can take heart in the fact that we gave them love and warmth in their short time with us and the best chance possible. If the kitten passes, alert the Foster Team.**